CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of monitoring for a security event using a speech recognition engine comprising:

receiving a sound signal within the speech recognition engine;

determining at least one attribute of the sound signal;

comparing the attribute of the sound signal with at least one acoustic model associated with the security event; and

identifying the sound signal as the security event according to said comparing step.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying a user over a specified communications channel responsive to identifying the security event.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a message describing the detected security event over a specified communications channel.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising sending a recording of the sound signal with the message.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the communication channel is an Internet communication channel.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the communication channel is at least one of a wireless communication channel and a telephony channel.

7. The method of claim 3, said sending step further comprising notifying the user of a system failure.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the speech recognition engine is disposed within a personal computer.

9.   The method of claim 1, said receiving step comprising detecting an acoustic sound through a transducer communicatively linked to the speech recognition engine.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein said sound signal specifies a sound of an alarm.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sound signal specifies a sound of glass breaking, a person walking, an animal noise, or a human voice.

12.   A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

    receiving a sound signal within the speech recognition engine;

    determining at least one attribute of the sound signal;

    comparing the attribute of the sound signal with at least one acoustic model associated with the security event; and

    identifying the sound signal as the security event according to said comparing step.

13.   The machine readable storage of claim 12, further comprising notifying a user over a specified communications channel responsive to identifying the security event.

14.   The machine readable storage of claim 12, further comprising sending a message describing the detected security event over a specified communications channel.

15.   The machine readable storage of claim 14, further comprising sending a recording of the sound signal with the message.

16.   The machine readable storage of claim 14, wherein the communication channel is an Internet communication channel.

17. The machine readable storage of claim 14, wherein the communication channel is at least one of a wireless communication channel and a telephony communication channel.

18. The machine readable storage of claim 14, said sending step further comprising notifying the user of a system failure.

19. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein the speech recognition engine is disposed within a personal computer.

20. The machine readable storage of claim 12, said receiving step comprising detecting an acoustic sound through a transducer communicatively linked to the speech recognition engine.

21. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said sound signal specifies a sound of an alarm.

22. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein the sound signal specifies a sound of glass breaking, a person walking, an animal noise, or a human voice.